

From: Don Rozenberg
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Comment on Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft has been found to be a predatory monopoly; it should not be allowed to use its monopolistic gains to extend and perpetuate its monopoly.

A large factor in its ability to continue its strangle hold is a small number of proprietary file formats. The most important one being the format of its Word document. Other important ones are the formats of other Office products. These are so important because so many people send Word documents to one another. Because the formats are proprietary, other software developers have not been able to generate completely satisfactory conversion programs that could run on other operating systems. There are indications that Microsoft is considering periodic licensing for its office products. Yours will be forced to by updates to look at documents that they have had for years.

If other software developers were able to interpret word documents then other alternative to MS Word would be available and thereby competition would be enhanced.

My suggestion is to force Microsoft to disclose its proprietary file formats especially for MS Office.

Yours Truly,
Don Rozenberg
707-882-3601
rozen@mcn.org